

MENTAL HEALTH LOCAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

July 14, 2008 - MINUTES

In attendance: Council Members: Chairman Jacob Wagner, Kathy Berg, Tom Peluso, Jan Bjork, Charlotte Kress, Sally Miller, Carolyn Robinson, Lori Marchak, Jerrold Johnson and Commissioner Bill Murdock; Advocacy Member: Dennis Cox (AMDD); Guests: Jodi Daly (WMMHC), Scott Malloy (GCMHC), and Betsy Garrigues (KMA). Staff: Glenda Howze.

Call to Order and Introductions - 12:07 PM. Chairman Wagner opened the meeting and allowed for introductions.

Public Comment - Ms. Miller announced that an MOU has been signed for a Veteran to Veteran program and there is also a Family Mental Health Seminar in Livingston next Friday and Saturday. Mr. Peluso stated that there is a need for transportation from Bozeman to Livingston; he will call Lee Hazelbaker about this possibility. Ms. Marchak suggested that a meeting needs to be arranged with the ER staff on crisis patient treatment, based on conversations that she's had with her own clients. Ms. Miller stated that there is a provider education team from NAMI. Mr. Malloy stated that it might be a good idea to get the input of the Bozeman Deaconess LAC rep before proceeding. Ms. Marchak agreed to contact Ms. Groeneweg about this matter. Mr. Peluso reported that Paul Meyer (WMMHC) received a call from Steve Kirchoff who was inquiring about the new Hope House. He also noted that he had heard complaints from area providers about them not being able to access their clients while in the Hope House. We need the support of area providers, not negative feedback. Lt. Robinson stated that she spoke to Mr. Kirchoff as well but didn't feel that the tone of the conversation or focus of his article would be negative. Mr. Malloy and Commissioner Murdock also spoke to him and felt that it wasn't negative either. Mr. Peluso stated that he feels the article will have a negative focus. Mr. Malloy stated that he thinks the article will be more about what the hospital doesn't provide. Mr. Johnson stated that the hospital is not very interested in the "whole person" - at least they weren't in the past. However, they did give us land to do something with and they have been better to work with all around in the last few years. Mr. Johnson stated that he also believes there should be a psychiatrist on the LAC. Mr. Wagner stated that private providers have also been very frustrated and unhappy that the County gives funds to the Mental Health Center. Ms. Kress stated that mental health is connected to the homeless situation. The community likes to think that we don't have a problem, we just give them a bus ticket and send them away. Discussion regarding the stigma issue. Discussion regarding having a psychiatrist attend meetings and the value of such. Mr. Malloy offered to have a psychiatrist attend but reminded the group of their work load and the value of his time. Ms. Marchak offered to visit with Jamie Eschler about attending as well. Ms. Kress suggested that perhaps with all of the veterans returning with PTSD issues that this could be the start of our focus on de-stigmatizing. Commissioner Murdock also commented on the homeless issue and noted that there are some that have chosen this and others with mental illness that have not "chosen" this lot in life.

The group also discussed the Hope House and the new (hopeful) Treatment House. Mr. Wagner stated that we should look at the number of incidents that have occurred at the Hope House, after all of the neighborhood concerns and upset that was noted before they received their approval.

Mr. Peluso stated that AMDD has hired Karl Rosston to work on the new Montana Strategic Suicide Prevention Plan. There is a CSAA summit on Friday. The SAA's are taking turns hosting these summits. They have also reviewed the Executive Planning Process. The Governor supports the community services plan and it has reduced the census at the state hospital to approximately 189, but this support is not

currently supported with funds, just verbal support. (The following correction was offered at the August 11, 2008 meeting): Correction! Lou Thompson has been using Goal 189 money to assist MSH patients with discharge planning whose needs exceed currently funded community services, on a case by case basis. She has also made available funds for 3, 8 bed facilities (Missoula, Helena, GF) to receive persons with high needs who are discharging from MSH. Ed Amberg has also funded staff to accompany persons discharging back to community. Additionally, those persons who are using crisis homes, and demonstrate substantial needs beyond the resources of the 72hr program, may receive continued funding on a case by case basis.

Approval of Minutes, June 2008 - Ms. Miller made a motion to approve the minutes as written. Ms. Bjork seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Priority Table - Co-Occurring: Mr. Peluso stated that the new drop-in center is up and running. The general manager is John Watson. He is spearheading AA meetings that specialize in co-occurring issues; these meetings will be daily, 6 days a week. Public Education/Outreach: The resources flyer is current and up to date as of about 60 days ago. The Health Department has printed 200 copies. Mr. Wagner invited city council members and mayors to attend LAC meetings numerous times. Ms. Howze and Ms. Marchak agreed to work on developing a website for LAC purposes with links to other resources as well. We also need to get a cost from the Health Department or printing company for additional printing of the resource guide. Ms. Howze agreed to also bring copies of the resource guide to the next meeting for all meeting attendees. Child Services: KMA - families are stressed with the economy. There are a lot of families that could afford care in the past but can't now, yet don't qualify for assistance either. Legislative Agenda: Mr. Peluso stated that we can't depend on the Governor to go to the legislature with mental health support. We need to pick three critical areas to educate the Gallatin County legislators about. Mental Health Court: The last few meetings of the subcommittee have all been centered on the new Hope House. The issues discussed at the last meeting regarding the types of individuals the crisis beds will serve has been largely resolved and County Attorney Marty Lambert is clear on the situation as well. Mr. Malloy reported that at the last LAC meeting things seemed pretty bleak. However, a group of individuals has met 2-3 times since then and everyone appears to be on the same page at this time. The 72-Hour is not related and is not in the same context. The issue is the process of pre-commitment and this will be worked out for the new facility. There will be voluntary beds, transitional beds and secure beds. Mr. Malloy met with Lt. Wade and they will continue to work together to work out process. Lt. Robinson stated that the issue remains, and is the biggest concern of Chief Tymrak, to be that of having to take an officer off the street to sit with those individuals awaiting medical evaluation. Mr. Malloy stated that now is the time to talk and get on the same page. Ms. Bjork encouraged Mr. Malloy to visit with the Sheriff and get input at the planning stages rather than as a reaction. We need to put together the law enforcement "perfect case" and the Mental Health Center's "perfect case" as well as the administrative rules and put them all together to develop processes for the new facility. Ms. Daly stated that they are working on the "privileges" for community psychiatrists. Mr. Malloy stated that the medical director will oversee the crisis facility. Mr. Wagner noted that there is a medical model versus a correctional piece; safe versus secure - each needs to be worked out for this facility to be functional for everyone's needs. Drop-In Center: The center is open and going well. There is a lot of enthusiasm surrounding the new center. Mr. Malloy questioned whether the LAC could serve as an advisory board for the center. Ms. Miller made a motion that the LAC become the advisory board for the Drop-In Center. Mr. Peluso seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion carried unanimously. *This will become a standing agenda item. Peer-to-Peer: There will be some sessions offered at the Drop-In Center. Connections will be doing meetings there as well. There are also Vet-to-Vet meetings at the Courthouse. Mr. Peluso also announced that he received notice that there will be a

substance abuse prevention training in August. Mental Health Campus: The request for proposals (Statement of Qualifications) (PER/PAR) for design and engineering of the Crisis Stabilization Home has gone out. The responses are due July 31st in Missoula. The plan is for 16 beds at this time. Transportation: We need to look at the Galavan and Streamline hours to see if they work with the Drop-In Center hours. Are there any access issues? Route or time changes that could be requested? Ms. Miller agreed to investigate this matter further.

Agency Reports - There were no agency reports at this time.

August Agenda - Mr. Wagner will meet with Paul Thomas for an update on the Homeless Shelter and possible presentation at the next meeting.

Other - Mr. Cox (AMDD) passed out a handout of the Mental Health Services Plan.

Adjournment - Mr. Johnson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Ms. Robinson seconded the motion. All voted aye. Motion carried unanimously.

Meeting adjourned at 1:15 PM